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Bachelors' Ball.

There were neither Arrivals from Sea, nor Papers from the other Presidencies by the Dawks of yesterday, so that we have taken occasion to introduce in our present Number, the Letter of which we spoke some days since, regarding the Tour of Mr. Moncreoff, from our Correspondent in the Mountains.—It will be found of sufficient interest to reward an attentive perusal, notwithstanding the great peculiarity of style which prevails throughout, but which could not be altered without destroying its originality.

The Ball given by the Bachelors of Calcutta, was one of the most brilliant that has been witnessed for some time. It was honoured by the presence of the Marquis and Marchioness of Hastings, and of all the beauty and fashion of Calcutta. The room was filled at an early hour, and Dancing commenced with a spirit and vivacity that continued throughout the evening.

Some excellent Sets of Quadrilles were remarked, but it would be held a rudeness, according to the fashion of India, to name those most distinguished in the Dance, tho' the varieties of fashion at Almack's would be as displeased at the omission as those of our Ball rooms would be at the enumeration of their names.

About midnight the Illustrious Visitors led the way to Supper, supported by the Presidents and Stewards; who were not more distinguished by their badges of office than by their activity in promoting the happiness of all whom they had invited to partake of their hospitality.

After supper, Mr. Wynch, who had the honour to preside at the Festive board, on this occasion, and who was supported on each side by his most distinguished guests, rose to propose a Toast.—He observed, that were he about to offer any other Toast than that which he should have the pleasure of proposing, he should have commenced "*Ladies and Gentlemen*," an unusual mode perhaps of prefacing a Toast in that Hall, but apparently called for on the present occasion. As it was, however, notwithstanding his seeming want of gallantry, he was compelled to address himself only to the Gentlemen present, since it was to them he looked for drinking the Health he should give, with the enthusiasm the subject naturally inspired. It would hardly be expected that he was to preface this Toast, which they had doubtless already anticipated, by any eulogium on conjugal felicity; that happiness his Brethren, and himself had yet in prospect, and he hoped they might all soon experience it; neither did he think it very desirable to detail the miseries of a single life, for of those they had probably had sufficient experience; and in compassion therefore to the feelings of his worthy associates, and pity to his own, he would wave any further allusion to the miseries of a Bachelor's life, which were too tedious to need being dwelt upon, nor would he occupy their time and attention, so much more deservedly devoted to the fair guests around them, by any general description of the influence of female charms on their occupations or amusements: he hoped however to be permitted on the part of his brethren and himself to say, that single men were not those whom it behoved, to be least ambitious of the approving smiles of the fair, before whose shrine, the most exalted talents must be but too proud to stoop, before they could hope to conquer, and in whose gift, were the loftiest laurels to which valour might aspire: without whom peace would no longer be pleasing, and man cease to be honourable society, if it deserved that name, sink into solitude, and existence became a blank! Still less was it necessary, that he should detain them longer from the Toast, for which they were naturally impatient, by expatiating on the peculiar taste of the charms which were not merely the grace and ornament, but the very life of their assembly: words might sometimes avail, where realities were not present to the view, but what

picture which he might hope to draw, was likely to vie with the living loveliness before them! He would not attempt it, but give without longer delay:—"The Marchioness of Hastings and the Ladies who had this night honoured them with their presence."

The Toast was drunk with enthusiasm, and accompanied by three loud and hearty cheers.

A short pause succeeded this general burst of feeling, during which we had hoped that some chivalrous Knight would have risen on behalf of that Sex to whose shrine the proudest knees can be brought to bend; and as their Herald, have told the admiring assemblage of youths and heroes, what was passing in the female hearts that fluttered as they listened to those broad distinctions which the eloquent President had so forcibly drawn between the cold and comfortless condition of Celibacy, and the warm and heart-expanding joys of wedded life. In this hope and expectation, we were however disappointed. It would be a more than usually difficult point to settle, what pretensions could establish any man's title to rise on an occasion of such an outpouring of pleasure and of embarrassment. It could scarcely be expected that any individual, however highly favored, could be chosen by deputation to represent the whole Sex, or that any man, were he the godlike aspect of Apollo, and the winning charms of Adonis in the same person, could hope to obtain the suffrages of all hearts, and monopolize their votes entirely to himself. Nay, even if this were practicable, none but a very Knight of La Mancha would voluntarily encounter such imminent peril. With the Baylis of Female Jealousy on the one side, and the Charybdis of Male Rivalry on the other, while the very centre of the stream would be rough and boisterous, his shipwreck would be certain.

Other objections, too, would naturally arise.—If he were a single man, it might be said that he was an unfit representative of the Sex, whose devotion to them had never yet been lighted up at the altar of Love or Hymen.—If he were married, it might be told him, that his vows to love, cherish, and honour only one, prevented the exercise of that extended virtue, which in Philosophy may embrace all mankind, in Chivalry may devote itself to all the Fair—but in Love must be pure—whole—individual—and undivided—or it is worthless.—If he were a widower, still more ingenuously objections might arise.—If too young, he might be rejected, for want of an ardent not yet kindled; and if too old, for the want of passions that had become extinct.

There would be no end to the train of difficulties that might be started, but that of some lovely Orator—adding the magic of bright eyes and sweet smiles to the enchanting eloquence of a female tongue,—and rising at once to conquer and subdue.—It is well, however, for the peace of mankind, that this weapon of enchantment is not in general added to the many others by which they inflict wounds that they themselves alone can heal;—and that the blandishments of beauty and of grace, are held to be withers enough for them to possess at once, without their being farther armed with the power of such appeals as the public display of high wrought eloquence would make to the hearts of those who listened but to love.

On returning to the Ball Room, Quadrilles were again renewed, with great spirit and animation. Some of the more devoted Daughters of Terpsichore, a band well worthy of the Muse's train, continued to waltz the measures of the graceful Dance until the morning had nearly opened on their unwearied steps;—and after a second Supper—and another high, filled bumper to the Ladies of Calcutta—with a fervent prayer that the ranks of the Bachelors might be thinned by every succeeding Anniversary of the day that came only to reproach them with delaying unnecessarily the consummation of their own happiness,—the President at their head, evincing his sincere "Amen" by three times three—the party broke up at gun-fire—and some, instead of retiring to bed, mounted their steeds, and enjoyed their morning's ride.

Letter from the Mountains.

To the Editor of the *Calcutta Journal*.

SIR,
 About the middle of last month, two mountaineers, natives of Nahn, who had accompanied Mr. Moorcroft on his tour to Ludak, arrived at this place, bearing a certificate of their discharge in Mr. M.'s hand writing, dated 6th October, Leh, the capital of Ludak. They returned by Kashmir, which line of route would appear to be the only one accessible at so late a period of the season; they were proceeding home to Nahn, and presented the passport of their services at this the frontier British post, where perhaps they might have surmised that the name of a traveller was a sufficient introduction for notice and good treatment.

Although I have not had the fortune to meet with Mr. Moorcroft, there was not the less interest in the adventures of one, who has courted more personal difficulty and peril in his devotion to the search of knowledge and useful acquisitions, than any Anglo-Indian untroubled by the obligations of responsibility now exploring alone and unprotected, where the mind rests with emotion upon the constitution of nature, of man, and his dominion in countries singularly organized, importantly related, and possessing attractions of invaluable acquaintance to all that is dignified in the existence of aspiring Europe.

The narrative of the journey of this adventurous and indefatigable traveller to Central Asia cannot be perused without feelings of regret, at the scanty supply of physical instruction which it conveys; but from whatever cause this is a consequent, it is equally mortifying to suspect, that its publication was somewhat irregular, and the selection of details rather injudicious; besides, it is difficult to conceive the necessity which restricted the disquisition of events, the growth of hard-combated exertion to an abstract itinerary or dictated selection from a journal, which embraced the geography of a stupendous and magnificent creation.

If, however, there is an indifference to the merit of the Tartaric tour, it is to be feared, that it exists more in inactive sensibility, or unacknowledged gratification, than in disappointment from deficiency either of interest or observation, and there is much suspicion for believing it the offspring of the boasted effusions of a dictatorial body, learned it is true, but neither just nor generous, and eminently conspicuous in the possession of that attribute of human nature, a satisfaction in the inferiority or misfortunes of others. The known line of Mr. M.'s route as far as the Sutlej, is much the same as that observed by Forster, (a) (who it may be right to remark, passed

(a) The line of Mr. Forster's route in this neighbourhood, is clearly defined. The several places noticed by him are still in existence, some of them little farther than a gun-shot distant, so that he must have passed through this very dell (Gumbur) of which the small piece of table land, Soobathoo, crowns the right bank, eleven hundred feet above the stream; although scarcely a direct mile from it, the declivity is however broken in the center by a slip of level soil, which weakens the otherwise giddy effect of our situation. This gap traverses the approach from the Indian side, and terminates in a ridge considerably upland to this.

The fort of Dherampoor, mentioned by Forster, is six miles South East of this, upon a transverse ridge, from which the waters flow in opposite directions; the villages Kanda and Gaura are in the dell. Synggar, a pass well known in the Goorkhali campaign, and from which the streams diverge in contrary lines, is capped by the fort of Soorajgurh, isolated in unapproachable dignity and defence. North West along the ridge upon its scarped extremity, stands the fort of Malown, which, with the connecting range were a mighty aspect from the British camp below, but are far less lofty than thus they appeared, or people will perhaps now credit. Their most formidable impression at that time, no doubt, was owing to the physical powers of an active and enterprising enemy, who guarded them; none of these fortifications noticed by Forster, yet some of them certainly existed then.

through this very tract,) only deviating at Nahn, and re-entering the Hills by the Pinjore Valley to Belaspoor, (b) which is the present boundary of British power. The Sutlej was crossed at this point, and the route traversed the mountainous district of Mandee, which with the adjacent states, is tributary to the rigid vassalage of the Seiks; here Mr. M. encountered a polite and unassuming interference of Rajah Runjeet Singh's officers, who were then in the exercise and discharge of a national virtue, extorting submission by plunder; but so authoritative restraint, such as is the usual policy of Asiatic governments, was urged. Such a check at the out-set of a distant journey, however slight it may appear, would have been quite sufficient to damp the spirit of further enterprise in some, who had nothing but imaginary impediments to plead in extenuation of misconduct, but Mr. Moorcroft, (to apply the sentiments very justly merited at the introduction of his former tour,) "with indefatigable perseverance and admirable intrepidity, undiminished by difficulty or danger, and undeterred by hardships and privations," sought the sorest path of success by repairing at considerable personal responsibility to Lahore, to court the pleasure of the Seik chief. After a short stay there, he returned to the foot of the mountains, from whence he passed through the Rajship of Kangra, the fort of which is the memorable death-blow to Goorkhali ambition. (c) At this time intelligence was received from him, as appears by the intimation through a Number of your Journal, for Dec. 25, 1820, dated from the mountains of that district. After some stay in this quarter, Mr. M. directed his course towards the interior, again

(b) Belaspoor, however, afforded subject for his pen. The town and plain is closed in by high precipitous mountains, whose tops may be ascended in a few hours, where the breeze is tempered to a refreshing coolness in the hottest months. The Sutlej rolls its waters against the moral rock, up on which the Raja's palace rests, and the Harem is flanked by a precipice washed also by the river, which seems fast corroding it; a dead level plain of green grass, emanates from the slope of the mountains and the town, and ends in a perpendicular cliff at the water's edge. The scenery is vivid and diversified. Malown appears to rest in the air. The town and streets are all built of rolled stones (pebbles,) and now and then a projecting mass of pudding-stone affords a sheltered and permanent residence for whole families; the whole seems to have come from primitive inundation not very remotely dispersed. It was remarked in a Number of your Journal, I think for Oct. 19th, that the Sutlej was arrested in its course for six weeks by an avalanche of its banks: this might not have been credited, it is a recorded fact, however, that the greatest portion of the town of Belaspoor was swept away upon the disruption of the waters, an event which was anticipated in time enough to protect lives and property against the deluge, as appears from the circumstance of a telegraphic communication, by firing guns on the first breach of the abutment. The transit of such a mass of water, the gathering of 45 days of a large river, must have been a picture of moving force and bulk quite beyond our ideas, for the valley is narrow and must have confined the water into a vast perpendicular column.

(c) The unobscured advance of the Nepalese army, and the extraordinary enterprise of its commanders, is perhaps, brighter verified on this quarter than many of their impetuous conquests. On their arrival at the Sutlej, they allied themselves to the then Belaspoor Rajah, through whose influence they were invited to make the conquest of the country, crossed the Soorj, leaving the reduction of all the interior to the hands of the Himalayas to another and more convenient period; looking upon that as an appendix to greater fortune, they advanced with unchecked ardor and invaded the fortress of Kat-Kangra. The Seik army and General S. e. over were negotiating for the line of demarcation and British frontier at Loocanah, and upon the conclusion of that, at a fortunate juncture, the Seik Chief deputed a picked army of thirty thousand men against the Goorkhali force of 8,000; and after obstinate, although proportionate resistance, they were compelled to raise the siege. The glittering prizes and bribe of Goorkhali ambition was Kashmir, which all the Himalayan guards would have in vain protected, had Kat-Kangra fallen; and our late campaign must in his case have extended ultra Soorj, to secure the boundary and future quiet.

travelling the rugged region of Mundee, where his arrival was made known by travellers and native merchants, whose intercourse with the Sulej inhabitants, afforded an opportunity of communicating the progress and disposition of their stranger visitor, who at last reached Sithanpoor, the capital of Koolou, upon the banks of the Beas or Hyphasis of the Greeks. It was already the beginning of August, and the rainy season had reached a vigorous severity here; the preparations necessary for a final departure from the Indian frontier, allowed Mr. M. a respite from the miserable fatigue of literally travelling through the clouds; (d) hence onwards to Leh, accounts of his progress were less circumstantial and less frequent, but it was reported and confirmed so long ago as October, that he had safely reached the capital of Ludak: no satisfactory intelligence of events, line of route, success, or future prospects were however received till the middle of December, when the two natives of Nahn presented themselves. The information they communicate is contracted and irregular, both being peasants, rustic and raw as the soil they cultivate, and possessing no further interest in their existence beyond its support, and seemingly eager to have quitted a country foreign to their habits and austere to their feelings. Where utter obscurity presides, the feeblest ray is welcome and recreative. They narrate as follows:

From Sithanpoor the route was directed by the Beas to its sources at the base of the Himalaya range, which is here depressed considerably below the common line of summits, and is traversed by a Pass inferior to the boundary of congelation. No snow occurred, but the upland wind blew cold upon the travellers, who shivered under its effects. The bottom of the opposite declivity they found washed by the Chunder-Baga, or Acesiness of history, which cut the line of their route and was crossed by a passage of ropes, (joola). The character of the river at this point of its course is not quite obvious, but the bridge of ropes argues some expanse, and it seems to have been rapid from the unfortunate circumstance of one of Mr. Moorcroft's horses being lost in the transit across the stream. Hence onwards, the road is represented as comparatively accommodation, but the country rises progressively, as appears by the total dearth of pasture for the cattle during a long day's journey, and on the 6th day it terminated by a Pass through a prolongation of the Himalaya, contiguous to which, snow was found in the hollows and sheltered situations; but we are not to judge of elevation in these regions from the absence of snow, and that this was very great may be inferred from the fact of the damp, which ended the day's journey at two coas beyond, and at a considerable descent from the crest, being involved during the night in a thick snow shower. (e) Mr.

(d) In the rainy season, the clouds rest upon the mountains for weeks together, and are frequently so dense, that a traveller may leave his wako, after passing, just as a vessel under sail does. At such times the beard and clothes become shrouded in a robe of scented vapour, or so many minute shining particles like frozen dew; and if the sun happens to burst through the mist, they reflect innumerable tints more brilliant than the colours of the rainbow; so that travellers moving in a group under such circumstances, produce a very beautiful effect, very similar to that described by Mr. Porter, as occurring with the cavaliers on a frosty morning upon a Russian desert.

(e) The absence of snow in the interior of the mountains, at the enormous elevations of seventeen and eighteen thousand feet, equal to the unobstructed snow-sheet crests of the Indo-Tartaric region, appears both incredible and unaccountable at first impression; but it is a phenomenon of easy solution, though not indeed by the greater radiation of caloric, as the Quarterly Reviewers will have it; although it is very true, (as they are now aware,) that a considerable excess of heat is generated from an extended continuous surface over slender peaks or steep mountain ranges. We may find the explanation in the deficiency of moisture in the air of the table land to form clouds, and consequently, deposit snow; for it is almost as scarce in this region as rain is. And of this we may judge, as in three months, July, August and September, there were only

Moorcroft had now passed the confines of Ludak, the range just crossed appearing to transect contiguous Rajahips. From this the route lay in the division of the province called Rookshoo, a tract remarkably elevated, thinly peopled, and unproductive. Two day's journey, without a village, without trees, and almost abandoned by nature, the 3d day a hamlet or cottage afforded protection, but little else; the few fields adjoining, reared backward crops of wheat and barley, (ghes and oos.) Wild pigeons, chackores and hares, are the only possessors of this dreary region: of these last, Mr. M. appears to have been as successful as in his Tartaric tour, having, (it is said,) killed 8 in one day. (f)

On the 15th day's journey, and within five of Leh, a lofty elongation of Himalaya was encountered, and much snow fell in making the passage. From analogy it may be concluded that the crest of this Pass rises to seventeen thousand feet (17,000) at least, but on this point we shall no doubt be fully instructed hereafter. (g) The whole country is singularly different from

as many rainy days the sun shone out and out his course unobscured; but that the atmosphere is chilled sufficiently to precipitate snow is equally obvious, for I have been involved in a drifting shower at a height of sixteen thousand feet at noon-day in the end of July; where too, the boundary of everlasting snow rests in a zone between seventeen and eighteen thousand feet, (17 and 18,000), notwithstanding, that the power of the sun and reflected heat, feels sometimes oppressive. The smallest obscurity of the luminary, diffuses a feeling, which, even on the preceding hour of glowing temperature under a brilliant canopy, recalls the desolate impulse of perpetual winter. The rainy shower above noticed, continued till after the passage of the range; the snow however did not begin to settle upon the ground till the height of seventeen thousand feet was attained. In crossing at two in the afternoon, the thermometer stood at 30°, and the moisture of respiration and that of the body congealed and stiffened on our clothes, fixing us all alive in an immovable shroud of frost; next morning at sunrise, the thermometer at the camp in a lane at an extreme elevation of 17,000 feet, was 29° and the ground all hoary; yet the table land in front, rising to sixteen thousand feet at least, presented not a vestige of the wintry snow: such is the wonderful reign of nature in these regions.

(f) The best proof of the great elevation of the soil in this tract is, that the lowest depression which is the beds of rivers, even at a long day's journey from the confines of the province of Ludak, and yet remote from Rookshoo, has been measured ten thousand feet above the sea: this is the height of the Lee river under the fort of Sheenker; but at its confluence with the Sulej, it is already sunk to eight thousand and five hundred feet (8,500), which gives a fall of 150 feet for each horizontal mile; an almost incredible quantity for the slope of a considerable stream (one-third of the density of the Sulej at the debouchure) while the mighty Ganges scarce shows above nine inches!!! But should the rise of the river onwards continue at even one-half of the above, (and rivers generally increase their inclination as we approach their sources), we shall cease to be astonished at the peaked altitude of the country, the aridity of the atmosphere, lofty zone of snow, or dearth and extinction of the succulent vegetable tribes. But nature is fitted for her nativity every where; or shall we say, nothing is created in vain; for we find an arid vegetation forcing its existence beyond the elevation of the boundary of the torpid lichen, beneath an equatorial sun nor are the animal tribes less tenacious of life; from the butterfly to the phasant, all find nourishment and a home amongst the tuffs of grass. While encamped upon the very brink of expiring vegetation, I used to be awaked by the call of the pheasants, as they fled their flight from these regions of summer sterility and frost, at the dawn of day. Chackores and hares occupy the next highest domain; I have seen the former in vast republics, high above all cultivated fields; both appear to frequent the most bleak and barren tracts. It will be recollected that Mr. Moorcroft and Captain Hearsey, killed seven hares one evening, upon the banks of the Sulej on the way to Garon.

(g) This is surely within bounds; for the snow only begins to form its eternal rest at that height; although beds and even whole beds lie undestructible, at three thousand feet inferior in the enclosed situations; and at the foot of steep shelving moun-

any thing upon the Indian side. Nature is changed, and the sky itself assumes a new physiognomy, and there is every reason to believe, that the eminences of the earth are composed of lime stone. (k) The dip of the soil towards Leh, from the range crossed, is scarcely to be conjectured by any accounts of the road; and in the total absence of every mathematical index of approximation, we have still one, by which we should be guided. Climate and the aspect of the vegetable tribes, whose organization and complexion, even on the mountains of the torrid zone, express a nativity, which is alone dependant upon the effect of geographical latitude, and by acute and judicious observers, will seldom fail to give satisfactory results. (i)

The town of Leh and capital of Ludak is situated in a plain of circumscribed extent, and watered by the Indus, upon the right bank of which it rests, a little elevated above the stream. The informers say, that the cultivation extends in successive gentle gradations to the water's edge, that is wheat & barley; the severity of the climate checks & destroys the growth of every other crop, or rather we should say, defies any attempt to rear them. Considering the latitude of Leh, we can only explain this modification of climate by the supposition of a remarkable elevation of soil above the common level of the earth. No localities or situation in the center of a stupendous Alpine country, clothed in indestructible snow have any effect in the production of seasons allied to northern austerity. (j) Of the extent of this.

thousand feet (18 000) above the sea, upon a sward of flowery verdure, with the last remains of snow in scattered patches; and at a scarce a thousand feet inferior, the dung of yaks and birds was as thick as to afford us the only but plentiful fuel, through a night of bitter frost, although we were in the end of August. A Pass of eighteen thousand feet was crossed, and the northern slope of the crest was without snow; some beds did lie in the hollow center of the declivity, but they were fast melting; this was at the entrance of the Chinese dominions. Another Pass at a still loftier altitude, in the barrier betwixt Ludack and Koonour was crossed; the snow however, lay in this neighbourhood in all the magnitude of primary chaos; and I have seen herds of yaks feeding at sixteen thousand feet.

(k) Here we have something new in the theory of Geology; but it is as true as it is strange. Upon the confines of China and Ludack, we find the mountains rising to 20,500 feet, and even higher, of pure limestone, the stratification sometimes lying with the most brilliant marble. Any one who has witnessed the undulating projections of the limestone peak, feels imprinted upon his mind a peculiar generic character, which time can never efface; and which is so faithfully recorded, that the eye recognizes, in the dimness of distance, the outline of the impression. This may be fancy, this may be conceit; but I could see in the aspect of the remote mountains towards Leh the same masses, shooting into aiguilles, in curved stratification, showing an inclined level plane of some thousands of feet, and of such august figure, as would make the bare relation, out-limit the fiction of romance. It is enough to say, that limestone forms the greater proportion of the interior mountains, rising beyond twenty thousand feet above the sea; and that the peaked exposure towards Leh of Ludack, resting upon mural bases washed by the Lee, was too characteristic of the scenery near the Pass, to be mistaken for any other formation.

(l) Although the vegetable tribes blend their nativities together, or usurp those of different climatic zones, or as Humboldt would say, "push their imaginations, beyond the limits assigned them, by nature," yet there are certain peculiar traits which more vividly are dependant upon the modification of climate. It indeed often happens, that the same genus of plants occupies the base and summit of a mountain, although the difference of climate between the two zones, may amount more than twenty degrees of latitude; but, in the arborescent kingdom, we find the scales of gradation more uniform and immutable, and their climatic and zones seldom confounded together.

(m) Much has been said upon the influence of purely local causes, unconnected with the two grand agents, latitude and elevation, in changing the aspect of nature and modifying the temperature; this opinion will upon examination appear very chimerical in a general view, cold winters succeed warm summers, and mild winters

we may form some idea, as it is asserted that during the sojourn of the travellers in the town of Leh, water froze at night, but dissolved by the first rays of the sun; this was anterior to the 6th of October, which is the date of their departure. Now from do not commence before October is half through, in situations analogous and similarly related, at elevations of nine thousand feet (9,000) above the sea; so that there are sufficient data to authorize the presumption of Leh, the capital of Ludak, attaining the height of ten thousand feet (10,000). (n) The sun appears to shine out his course there, as in Tartary, consequently very little snow falls throughout any portion of this immense and extraordinary region; this is likewise inferred from the circumstance of a road from Koonour to Ludak, being traversable the whole year out. (o) The atmosphere of Ludak partakes of that aridity and brilliant vividness which is common to all the table land up to the Mansarour, and down to Teshoo Loomboo, and is surely a far more admissible exclamation of the di-estated summits of the Tartaric mountains and remote boundary of congelation, than the radiation

temperate ones; so that the yearly mean equalizes all differences. The prosperity of some plants, however, is dependant upon the summers heat; others again upon the yearly mean temperature; so that localities in some instances will operate.

(p) At Shipkee, which stands ten thousand six hundred feet above the sea, the extreme cold on the 14th and 15th October 1818, was from 37 to 39. In the year following, the same tour was made by two travellers; and during a halt of six days at Shipkee, from the 14th of the same month, the mean depression of temperature was 33; but at fourteen hundred feet higher at Nako, or an extreme elevation of twelve thousand feet, 4 days after, the mean temperature at sunrise for three days was 25; extreme depression 20; while at Chang, 10,000 feet above the sea, the next camp, the thermometer was 28; but water will freeze when the temperature of the air is even higher than 40. The above conclusions are less satisfactory for the present purpose than might have been expected; but we must recollect, that half a month at that period of the year, makes a prodigious alteration on the climate. Apricots are said to grow in Ludack—At Shipkee they thrive well also; but much higher, they do not succeed. I have seen them at a village beyond Shipkee, but there appeared no difference of elevation; a couple of day's journey farther up, they become extinct—At Nako there are none. Poplars, willows, and arborescent juniper, are the only trees at that height; this affords us very good data for the elevation at Leh, which we can hardly allow to be much more than ten thousand feet; (10,000) while the limit of its lowest elevation seems almost as clearly defined, if we estimate the valley of Kashmir at six thousand feet (6,000), where rice is luxuriantly cultivated.

(q) With the exception of a few days together, after a fall of snow, the road is open throughout the whole year, which is extraordinary, enough when we consider that the elevation of soil traversed, must rise to fifteen and sixteen thousand feet, (15 and 16,000); but such is the effect of an arid atmosphere, that even at the Mansarour itself, which from inference deduced from the altitude of the stream of the Sattlej at Becker, barometrically ascertained to be ten thousand seven hundred feet, is certainly scarce under seventeen thousand feet, (17,000) from the level of the sea, the snow seldom exceeds two feet in depth; while at one thousand feet inferior to this, and under a perpendicular sun, upon the Andes of America, it lays undestructible—But this absence of snow on the table land of Tartary, seems to have very little effect in modifying the winter season, for what must be the rigors there, when large rivers are frozen over for months together. From Garoo, travellers glide down the Indus upon the ice, the whole way to Ludack! At this moment several natives of Koonour have made their appearance here; and whose honest faces and conversation, which bear the character of fidelity and freedom, throws considerable insight to the geography and climate of Ludaki of there was time to relate it; the severity of the winter season is described as even greater than we can consistently explain upon natural causes. The snow never lies thicker than a foot and a half; yet the Indus is frozen over for weeks together, and is crossed upon the ice. Apricots are less plentiful, than was formerly supposed: a few scattered trees produce but a scanty crop and which is said to be inferior to those of Shipkee; from this we should almost be disposed to assign a still greater elevation for Leh perhaps not below 10,500 feet.

of caloric, to which cause it seems the fashion of the time to ascribe whatever is intricate in the solution of a phenomenon which the vanity of modern Philosophy would rather corrupt by fallacious construction, than expose a shallow discernment as a feigned enthusiasm by avowing ignorance. (m) To the same influence, a deficiency of moisture in the whole of that country is owing: the elevated abode of man and death of forest, and verdant vegetation, and this last not in the effect of singularity of soil or extreme altitude. On this subject Captain Turner however thinks quite the contrary, but it will be difficult to agree with him. After giving us a splendid and impressive description of the universal nakedness of Tibet and rigors of the season, he says, 'the atmosphere indeed was now in an extreme degree keen and pure; during three months that I had passed in Tibet, I had not witnessed three cloudy days. The dryness of the soil and scantiness of vegetation, contribute little towards charging the air with humidity.' The cause is here confounded with the effect; so far from the poverty in the vegetable kingdom being productive of the aridity of the atmosphere, it is a consequence of it; but more correct induction was unexpected in a work more confined to the delineation of the houses and the foliivants, costume and character, than to the physical nature of the country or climate, at once so wonderful and majestic. (n)

Lah is said to be a considerable town, populous and busy; but affording few attractions to the foreigner. After ten day's residence our informers requested their release from the thraldom of a climate which afforded them a scanty subsistence, and the comfortless enjoyment of this was bittered by the incursions of the cold. Although it was yet the 6th of October, overgrown by Rookshoo was judged of uncertain safety, and perhaps inaccessible from the accumulation of the snow, or rather the strength of the frosts in the Passes of the lofty regions which guard the extremities of the Ludak plain; and the route of return was by Kashmir, three day's journey

(m) It is perfectly clear, although not more obvious from fact information, although the Quarterly Reviewers pretend to have been but recently informed, that a very great degree of heat is absorbed by the high land of Tartary on the summer season; but this is not the case, that the elevated boundary of congelation, of man and vegetable life, is here dependent upon the nature of the winter, not upon the summer heat, which is diametrically opposite to the effect produced upon the Andes of America; or to make the contrast still wider, the insulated masses of the Himalaya; so that the Reviewers' hypothesis of radiation of caloric, is both futile and injudicious; but it is in juxta position to all the others on this subject.

No one will dispute the effect of an increased solar reverberation upon the time of perpetual frost; but how this can operate in elevating the snow, which exists not to perpetuate a lower boundary, is somewhat anomalous. The scantiness of vapour in the air, and consequently a great deficiency of snow in winter, is best proved by the known fact of the sun shining out his course at the season of continued mist and rain, over all India, even to the loftiest Peaks of the Himalaya; but that the atmosphere of Tartary is sufficiently chilled, even on summer, to wrap the country in indestructible snow, if there was a disposition in it to deposit, it is very clear from Mr. Moorcroft's observations, where it freezes on July and snows in August; what should we expect to find the state of things if that region were haunted by as many clouds as we have in this: the whole of this immense tract would be loaded with undestructible snow and ice, and wholly uninhabitable, but nature modifies her terrors as she rises in majestic dominion.

(n) What better illustration can we have of the foregoing than Captain Turner's tour to Tashoo Loomboe; he gives us a feeling picture of the cold in that region; but nothing like clouds or vapour obscured the brilliant azures of the sky; yet vast lakes where frozen to the depth of several fathoms so early as November, in a parallel of latitude of 30°. The Himalaya chain was crossed in the beginning of December, yet not a word occurs about snow in the pass. It is much to be regretted that he has furnished us with so few observations upon the climate; and even these are so irregular and undefined, as to impair in some degree their value.

down the Indus, and on the fourth day it was crossed by a sangha. The tract hence is described as a desolate sameness without relief; one pile of inequities, snow and verdure mixed, cold and inhospitable, and bearing poverty unprotected, but by the warping rigors of a brilliant sky. No forest finds nourishment here—the soil scarce yields enough of arid vegetation to mark the summer from the winter, and owns not even the dominion of the wild beasts; such are the feelings of the Indian traveller. Kashmir was a congenial change after the toils of twenty day's journey; they descended into the valley through a Pass in the Himalaya Mountains, where the snow had defied the heat of summer; they were detained here, summoned for their passport, and interrogated about their master; they found their way out of the valley by the course of the Gelum, or Hyphasis of the Greeks, which they crossed, and ascending the outer and embaying barrier of Himalaya, made their final exit through a snowy Pass from a country which afforded them neither comfort nor care. Thus much on the progress and success of Mr. Moorcroft, which by itself might have been communicated a month ago, but was thought a more apt prelude to the next Paper on Congelation, especially, under the conviction of the impossibility of its preceding other sources of intelligence, or of their appearance rendering it unnecessary.

The additional fragments which you have given us, are most acceptable, not that they are new, but as concentrating remotely detached authority, and I hope may be turned to some account. In selecting information of this or any other interesting nature, in whatever quarter of the habitable world, and adding your own useful remarks, you will I am sure, perform an infinite service to what I should hope to believe, an ardent Public! England at least will thank you. If the fulfilment of this is a service to some, it is no less an obligation to others, and to do this properly, no punctilious sensibility should be consulted. Transcribe from every source, from the frigid frosts of your neighbours, or the exalted effusions of disappointed pretension humbled into vulgarity. (o) The extracts you have favored us with, are highly interesting, as affording room for comparison with other accounts, which if not more correct, are at least obtained from all that is respectable in the oral conduits of residents in the Province, collected in the very borders of the tracts, and verified by interrogatory examination of multifarious and divergent interests.

There is evidently a misconception in supposing that rice is the produce of Ludak. The culture of that grain requires two essential climatic properties, which have no existence in any part of this singular region. 1st. Periodical rains, or at least the moist-warmth of that season, and without which, India's plains would wear a russet mantle deeper than the barren heaths of the Hebrides. 2d. The want of a sufficient reverberation of solar heat, to excite the germinating activity of the moisture which exists; not to generate the rank exuberance which characterizes the nativity of rice, to this may be added, the late continuance and early advance of winter. It is very true, that rice is successfully cultivated at elevations quite astonishing; I have travelled for ten miles in the valley of the Pabur, rising from five thousand to six thousand five hundred feet, and even higher, which was thickly bearded with fertile crops. In approaching the Himalaya in the beginning of July, the fields were under water, and every hand employed in transplanting the young shoots and returning in the end of September, as

(o) It is extremely desirable, that you should obtain accurate meteorological diaries of the climate within the tropics; abstracts of registers, whether in Calcutta or elsewhere, will materially contribute to general improvement in the most interesting and useful sciences; but the common method of observation conveys but little benefit. The several you have favored us with, are the only worth possessing; but they admit of much correction.

was already under the reapers, but it would not be general harvest till after the first week of October had passed; considerably subsequent to this period, even so late as the 15th of that month, the rice harvest in the valley of the Sutlej had just commenced, though the plantations were generally elevated, so little as from three to four thousand feet above the sea, which is extraordinary enough. Perhaps the greater frequency and longer duration of sunshine and comparative scantiness of the rains might have contributed to the earlier maturity of the rice on the banks of the Pabur; (p) but even this period (October) of reaping a tender grain at six thousand five hundred feet (6,500) is already winter in Ludak, where too the vital influence of the sun already less, is further weakened by the want of moisture—such is the reign of nature within the Himalaya Mountains. The only crops of this elevated country and all along the plateau of Tartary are, wheat, barley and the pea, which last has received an ambiguous classification; but Dr. Wallich, who ought to know best, is said to have pronounced it to be a new species of wheat. Captain Webb observes, that "the pea while in the ear resembles bearded barley, but when deprived of the husk, wheat." It is the hardest of all the grains growing all along the Tartaric banks of the Sutlej up to Daba, and even half way between that and the Rhuwas Rhad Lake, and northward towards China, affording the base of the subsistence of the inhabited table land, at elevations surpassing the boundary of snow in Equatorial America. (q)

(p) We have here perhaps one of the strongest indications of the effect of purely local causes, in changing the constitution of nature. In considering this subject, we must particularly beware of giving it that common construction, which is thoughtlessly implied by locality. We shall no doubt be told, that the foreign organization, and elevated nativity, of the vegetable tribes on the table land of Tartary, is owing to local influence; just as we daily bear of the temperate climate and purity of the air that trends along the sea coast arising from the same cause; but this is not the effect of locality, which has a generic definition, and exists only in a casual concurrence of something heterogeneous or alien, in a tract otherwise subjected to one and the same agency as a mass of arid rock on the centre of a dead level plain; or the summit of a mountain impeding upon the torrid atmosphere of a flat country; little elevated above the sea, but when we attempt to generalize, we find our reasoning most egregiously confounded, and by poetical doctrines formed upon the consequences, are urged to prove the aberrations self-engendered.

(q) Nothing is more abstract than the surmise of Dr. Humboldt: "As the heat," he says "of high regions of the atmosphere, depends on the radiation of the plains, it is conceived, that under the same geographical parallels, one may not find, in the system of transatlantic climates, the isothermal lines at the same elevation above the level of the sea, as in the system of European climates." And again he says, that "a certain number of peaks of mountains are not to be taken as the measure of the magnitude of mountain ranges." (Calcutta Journal, for 31st August 1820) Equally just too is Mr. Colebrooke's observation; but he has had all the advantages of experience from the errors of others, and is therefore nothing original. The concluding paragraph of his paper on conglomeration for the present knowledge, which of you, Mr. Editor, have a grateful return of obligation, is this: "Nor can it consistently with with experience and analogy, be expected, that one and the same scale shall serve both for Northern and Southern hemispheres, and for Eastern and Western Continents; for solitary Peaks, and for vast Mountain masses." If we begin now to make contrasts and comparisons, there is no knowing when and where we may end; but as a reference to the text, we may remark, that upon the Andes of America, under the five itself, Vegetable nature is reaped even before the altitude of fifteen thousand feet, (15,000); and at only seven hundred and fifty feet more, vast patches of snow which never melt! Something similar to this, and neither so discordant to theory or analogy as late observations inculcate, occurs upon the higher aspect of the Himalaya mountains; but what an altered elevation shows itself interiorly to this snow capped barrier: the shade of man and agricultural vegetation, (as was surmised previously to the access of the conduits of present disquisition), surpassing the boundary of eternal snow beneath the Equator!!!

I myself have seen rich harvests at a height exceeding twelve thousand feet (12,000) (r) and within the Chinese dominions at an earlier period green crops, where the meridian temperature was stationary at 75 and 74 and extreme depression from 44 to 47, and the sun shone out his course in an atmosphere as fine as amber, although we were in the beginning of August; high table land, clothed in yellow robes of furze, limited the horizon. The far-travelled Sutlej carrying its distant tribute to the Ocean, rolled on a bed surpassing in elevation, the highest summit of Whartoo. (s) A distant snowy Peak marked the rise of the sun to sky, free of refraction and ever serene, and with a thousand other varied associations, inspired a deep, foreign and august impression, which language cannot define. (t)

The latitude of Ludak (Leh) is still a desideratum, and with all the respect due to former travellers and geographers, whose authority and conclusions were derived from perhaps the only accessible sources within reach; it is nevertheless problematic, that the position of that capital is placed considerably higher, than is maintained by the concurrence of more exceptionable data from nearer appulses to the frontier, than was offered or supplied to any traveller preceding Mr. Moorcroft, who appears both qualified and equipped for solving this grand geographical question. The sources of present authority, which are many and various, unite in a collimation, which exhibits a reduction from the latest assigned position of Leh, exceeding three degrees, being a deviation from that stated in your Journal, (u) of one degree and three quarters, and

(r) In the environs of Nako, which, by a detection of a discrepancy in the calculation, comes out fully twelve thousand feet (12,000) above the sea, are luxuriant crops of two or three in terraced fields, rising in a succession of steps, to nearly seven hundred feet higher, where also is a Lama's temple, inhabited throughout the year. Harvest begins about the last three or four days in August, and even already the temperature descends to 47° at sunrise; although that of the day observes a medium from 70, to 74; and a short day's journey, 5 miles from this, at Chang, 2,000 feet lower, the crops are cut down in the beginning of August, and even earlier so regular is the effect of distance from the level of the ocean, or rather the difference of the level of situations. Six days journey South Easterly from the village of Niesung and the dell of the Sutlej, (passing the Chinese frontier upon the 4th day) is Hocker, a quarter in the table land, consisting of several small villages. The site of the camp was at a temple and residence of a gooroo, a learned personage, who is the solitary tenant of this place. The botanical observations, (taken beneath a majestic poplar tree possessed by numbers of goldfinches singing out the course of a sun as brilliant in his last oblique rays as in the flush of noon) gave an altitude of twelve thousand seven hundred feet (12,700) above the sea. Crops of the sea at the same level were shooting into ear; and still higher, by estimation not less than three or four hundred feet, were also green fields, although it was but the 24th of August. The thermometer fell to 44° at sunrise.

(s) This ridge rises to ten thousand six hundred feet, (10,600), and in July is clothed in alpine strawberry of finest flavor. Here, one may, in less than five hours, have a change of climate equal to 25 degrees of latitude, by descending into the valley of the Sutlej. Katgorh rests exactly in the vertical center, being 4,000 feet above the Sutlej, and as much beneath Whartoo ridge.

(t) There is a dignified emotion, inspired by the serene majesty of nature, and deep azure of the heavens in the August regions of Tartary, which entrances the mind far beyond the magic power of expression. Twelve days and nights in an uninhabited country, from the 25th of July, we had no other cover over our heads, than the bright skies of Tartary.

(u) The latitude given by Hamilton, is the means of Major Rennel's and Macartney's, or 34° 30' and 37° 45'. The map which illustrates the route of the Gabel Embassy, seems to have conveyed an ambiguity, which would reasonably influence the determination of the English geographer, notwithstanding the exalted reputation of Rennel, who formed his judgement upon far more distant sources of intelligence, which consequently are esteemed more objectionable; but this is by no means a safe conclusion, as subsequent disclosure confirms.

a difference from Major Rennel's position of 32° or an actual determination in a parallel of 33° 46'. This result is derived from the concentrated information of many transverse sources, and has been deduced from all that is respectable in the union of high scientific talent, with acute comprehension and industry, linked to just induction. (v) The confirmatory materials for reducing the latitude of Leh, derive their strength from whatever can be afforded by the local advantages of shorter and purer conduits of information, collected upon the very frontier from the oral records of travellers, all of which approach to one focus.—Edly. Extensive and hard-earned experience in physical geography, before which the power of reputation seated upon the most eminent apex of ability must bend. (vi) The grand point of verification for the latitude of Leh, is the town and fort of Sheekur. (vii) upon the confines of Ladak, observed in lat. 32°. From this point to Leh of Ladak, is a high road and line of route for the greatest proportion of the commerce in Koonour, and no accounts corroborate more protracted journey than sixteen days; travelling with laden cattle, sheep, asses, and yaks. (viii) The horizontal distance of the stages is computed by the individuality of those between Sheekur and Garoo, (ix) the position of which is correctly enough

(v) Refer to Number 229 of the Calcutta Journal, for November 20, 1819.

(vi) Arrogant as this may appear, it is nevertheless quite defensible if it was not so late in the evening. We daily see the maxims verified, and in so warm so bright, as in the opinions of the Quarterly Reviewers; for a further justification of this, see a letter of the Tartar of the Steppes, in the Calcutta Journal for September 2, 1819.

(vii) Sheekur is the northern extremity of Buxteh, and is fortified boundary towards China and Ladak. The distinction of fort is only applicable in a comparative view; just as the denser societies of the country may be said to rank as towns, although in fact they are only villages; but as forts towns, and a thousand other things derive their strength from the scale of destiny over which they preside, or contrast they produce, we must be allowed the form, Sheekur rests upon the very edge of a do-olity, falling remarkably acute to the Lee 400 feet below, the power and rapidity of whose stream seems to be corroding away the base of the abutment, the whole of which, considering its elevation above the sea, forms a complicated field for the systematic geologist. The fort is built of stone, and bricks baked in the sun; within are houses, in which several families reside. Seen at a few miles distant, the fort recalls a singular cognizance of the Castle of Edinburgh; it stands fully ten thousand feet above the sea. Buxteh still extends 5 or 6 miles further up the river; and today's journey brings us to the frontier village of Ladak, which was visited by a European in the end of October, 1819.

(viii) There is another and shorter route, by the valley of Soom, but which can only be travelled in the middle of summer. The fourth day's journey cuts the Himalaya at the prodigious elevation of eighteen thousand six hundred feet (18,600); but the road, as far as the Pass, is difficult and dangerous, and accidents frequently occur, that few traders have the courage to attempt it; and the Sheekur line of route forms the principal communication with Ladak, close to which also, and crossing the Lee, leads the road for the winter months, which exhibits a scene of protracted sterile rigour, unvisited in our highest latitudes. The lowest depression of the whole road, the bed of the Lee, reaches to ten thousand feet from the level of the sea.

(ix) Garoo or Gartope, is a tented community for the summer season only, upon the banks of the Ekang Chao, which is the large tributary stream of the Indus, and has its source on the hither side of the Khyasur range, through which it finds its passage. It will be remembered; that Mr. Moorcroft and Captain Hearsey halted here six days, on their way to Lake Manasarovar, to purchase shawl wool. At that season even the plains of Tartary must wear an interesting and animated aspect, very contrary to our expectations, from the extraordinary projection of the soil. Mr. Moorcroft estimates the bodies of sheep and cattle feeding in the plain, at not less than forty thousand, (40,000). Such numbers of these beautiful animals, and the novel scene of their Tartar traders, must

approximated by Captain Hearsey's measurement to form a grand point of verification—Sheekur is almost equidistant from both; to Gartope being 14 stages, and to Leh 16 stages. The nature of the country in both directions differs very materially from the anfractuous inequalities of the Indo-Tartaric region, or the Alpine belt, which emanates from its hither base, and has proportionally influenced conclusion.

Not only does the country interiorly to the Himalaya soften down in undulations, but those tracts which still present to the eye, desolation and peaked disorder and through which the routes to Ladak traverse, are of new configuration and substance; here granite gives place to limestone, sandstone, clay, and indurated rubble; the rivers find their course in an expanded bed pebbled and unimpeded by crags, or the shattered ribs of mountain masses. The route from Garoo to Sheekur traverses the table land for nine days journey; here it cuts the crest of a very lofty chain of Snowy mountains, called Bontpo, and is demonstrably a prolongation of that mighty desolate barrier which divers the course of the Sutlej at Shipkoo; hence the complement of the journey to Sheekur, part of which has been travelled, is by no means modified (as) part; however is on high table land (12,000 feet), and surprising to observe, its surface bears the wear of water, pebbly crusted with horizontal strata of sand, and studded with decayed isolated tumuli of a strange alluvial conglomerate. (bb.)

have a lively effect; yet although Mr. Moorcroft appears to have been there at the busiest period of the fair, nothing foreign or impressive suggested itself for observation out of so anomalous an aggregate. The fair of Garoo, is the great emporium for the shawl wool, and various manufactured articles of commerce; merchants resort thither from many distant quarters; even cavaliers of Russian horsemen, are said to find their way to this market; people from Tashoo Loomboo and Lahassa, frequent the fair, and more easterly, even from the interior of China Proper. Pekin is only known by the name of Gooenak, or Gooenak by Mr. Moorcroft, who however, makes no allusion to it. Both travellers having been seen at the fair, although not perhaps known to be Europeans, is very well authenticated by several of the natives of Koonour; one in particular, an intelligent and respectable trader, asserts, that he was the interpreter and mediator between them, and the Tartar or governor, who presides during the fair in a tent, and on the approach of winter he repairs to the banks of the Indus, some way down the stream. The shepherds and their flocks all seek shelter from the protracted severity of the season; but what comfort can be afforded by the climate of a region, in its greatest depression still fourteen or fifteen thousand feet, (14 or 15,000), from the level of the sea; and were it colder even in July; the summer and harvest of their enjoyment is pasturing and shearing their herds; but nature is organized so, as to smile even in her torments.

(aa) The majestic grandeur of this line of hoary summits, stretching out from a parent mass with two mighty heads of twenty-two thousand five hundred feet (22,500) each, defies all utterance. I have viewed this scene from the table land of Tartary, at the height of sixteen thousand feet (16,000). The elevated base of the chain, softened into a valley as ghastly naked as the eternal snows with which it was partly filled; it seemed to extend away to the Khyasur range, and by it was closed in.

(bb) This height was obtained by the most efficient barometrical measurement. The whole of this neighbourhood seems to have emerged from water; but whether formed by it, may be assigned to the sceptical wisdom of those, who are dazed by the charm of "systematic delusions". Here, although no shells were observed, the surface was studded with water, worn sandstones, pebbles, and a clayish marl disposed in layers. In the vicinity of Sheekur, we are struck at seeing in situ of a loamy substance, like pipe-clay, protruding through the sides of the mountains, like flocks of sheep; these, when sliced vertically, show a regular horizontal stratification, disposed in layers or plates of various thickness; these rest upon each other, and, at the union, may be divided by a slight concussion. The stratification of a homogeneous substance as this is, can only be visible at the intervals of separate formations; but there it is beautifully defined.

Considering Garoo and Shealkur fixed points, and being well acquainted with the general extent of a day's journey, the geographical measurement is resolved by a reduction of one-third part of the distance for the curvatures of the route in each stage, and on the computation of 12 miles for these, we gain a daily horizontal advance of 8 miles, which is surely no ample allowance in a country like the table land. This result, extraordinary as it must appear to many, is perfectly consonant to experience in other quarters, and is therefore and thus only taken as a measure for fixing the capital of Ludak; the route to which deviating very little from the meridian, must be considered as involving the minimum quantity of error.—The allowance of one-third for the inflexions of the road on that portion of the table land between Gartope and Bootpoo, may perhaps be a little overplus; there is however no reason to admit the belief, and besides any such discrepancy is more than counter-balanced by the greater irregularities of the tract confining the route to Leh, which is no table land, and, as seen from the crest of a pass upwards of eighteen thousand feet (18,000) high, and also, from a lofty station within the boundary of Ludak, adjoining the frontier village, exhibited an expanse of snowy eminences rising in succession to the limits of vision, parted in the center by the valley of the Leh, which shewed a considerable level breadth of bed (m.)

The plain of Changgo, is of a most remarkable formation; and although ten thousand feet above the sea, there we may trace a series of depositions in the very fields. Dig into the earth to any depth, and you cut through a horizontal stratification.—About a mile and a half from Changgo, at a still greater elevation, not less than 11,000 feet measured, the road passes over an inclined plane strewn with pieces of limestone, colored and blended in all their shades beyond the power of the pencil to imitate. Upon the left of the road rises a ridge of packed foam-like pipe clay, which is beautiful in its decay; there one beholds cavities and recesses, arched by natural cornices, surpassing the finest specimens of Grecian architecture. I speak from eye-sight obtained at hard-earned adventure.

(cc) In crossing and recrossing this stupendous chain at an interval of four days, the barometer was marked in the crest at 16,100 and 15,220 respectively. The sun was in the meridian both days, and struck full upon us from an atmosphere darker than the mid-night ferment; yet though we were in the beginning of September, the thermometer exposed to the wind under shade of a chailla, was stationary from 23 to 24.5 and snow water boiled at 181.5. At a station of nineteen thousand four hundred feet (19,400) above the sea, which is 100 feet higher than Dr. Humboldt's loftiest ascent upon Chimborazo on the Equator, the boiling point of water was 190. Arduous and fertile in misfortune, as the passage of this colossal chain is, yet droves of sheep, 40 and 50 together, laden with the produce of Koonour, were met on their way to Ludak.—About the height of 16,500 feet, after a very toilsome ascent, made more fatiguing by the thawing soil and snow, we halted to recover our strength and spirits, of which the extreme subtilty of the air had by this time scarcely left us enough to support ourselves; and while straining our wandering eyes at the more wondrous formations of the limestone, which rose in packed benches over us, a splinter from an opulent height was detached by its own decay, but fortuitously at a distance above us; that enabled us to avoid the route it was taking; which however was but scarcely accomplished, the passage of this self-moved messenger was so long and rough, that it reached our level on its entire destruction, being dashed to particles by the collision of the solid bodies on its way; only one person was struck. This event produced an observation by our guide, upon the nature of the passage of this barrier formerly: he said travellers with their flocks traversed the range by the great field of unalterable snow which descends some way from the crest; those keeping in the centre of the dell, perhaps to avoid the falling rocks which flank it; but that sometimes whole herds of cattle and their tenders, waded through the arch into perpetual darkness and were never more heard of; which made them deviate by the slope of the mountains; but there is no choice from danger, since it often happens that a piece of rock descends with a force which sweeps every thing in its way, to the opposite side of the dell, and the escape is so

Few people will perhaps be prepared to give credit to the quantity of a third part of the distance for the angles of the road; but what will they say to a half, which is no unusual occurrence in the intricacies of Himalayan geography: (dd) while, even in the Alpine region infringing upon the plains of India, we frequently find it between one-third and a half, such is the coarse features of the mountain belt, that before we can traverse the face with any ease, we must almost make the circuit of the body. (cc)

It has been just remarked, that a less reduction is necessary in the distances which traverse the plateau of Tartary, and intersect the interior of the Himalaya, although on this last, disorder and deformity are little more modified than in the

numerous, that we can trace a degree of watchful anxiety on the eye of the traders as they move along.

The day's journey that brought us in safety across the boundary into the Ludak dominions, ended with our camp in a valley descending from the pass, at fifteen thousand feet above the sea, and the thermometer the following morning at 25, just the temperature of the preceding day at noon: so singularly rapid in the transition produced by a change of level. Three miles further down the dell, to the borders of a Lake, thirteen thousand five hundred feet above the sea, was the farthest advance upon the Ludak territory, that prayers, solicitations or courtesy could effect. The Ludakcees, informed of our approach by a most fortuitous, untimely, and provoking discovery, were already here to meet and halt us. The Council assembled at the bank of the Lake upon a commanding eminence. A letter of recommendation, presents, and the object in seeking this time of route, to save the tedious terrors of that by the dell of the Sutlej, were all urged in vain for permission to bring our camp to the frontier village (Manee), only two miles distant. The only bid they alleged to our advance was, that there were no orders, no authority, no anticipated assent; but they shewed perfect and friendly willingness to let the way lie for us; and a scroll of Mr. Rutherford's broad cloth, was instantly assigned to the governor of Danksfort, upon the bank of the Lee, and a request for a passport along the frontier in Wangtun; but this was negatived, and the cloth returned. As evening drew on, (no answer having as yet been received), they formed themselves into detached parties, and watched us all night; and this too more from a dread of our trespassing further, than any ability they possessed of opposing us; and they must have had a specimen of our physical strength. Their obstinacy, and our abhorrence in subject these borderers to the displeasure of their chief by any further advance, destroyed the great intention of the visit, which was to observe the barometer in the head of the Lee. It is proper to remark, that their behaviour was most complaisant—and supplies of great variety were afforded for otherwise was the disposition of the Chinese at Beckar, who tried hard to starve us out, and, apparently told us, that when resisted, they would both devour our bodies and our baggage.

The prospect from this elevated station, considerably lower, however, than that of the preceding day, and more than five thousand feet (5,000) below the Pass, was extensive and grand. The Lee was seen, reaching its course at the feet of limestone rocks, moss in their crevices, on which rested perpetual snow. Villages were thickly scattered in the dell, which was of some breadth; many tall rose behind others, and were only limited by the dimness of distant the sky became extremely and we feared a fall of snow, which would have most advantageously shut us up in this line. Birds of unknown plumage appeared among the rocks; Men, animals, nature, and the atmosphere, was strange and foreign to us and mind and eye felt an impression, which admits neither of description or decay.

(dd) The route to the Chinese frontier by the valley of the Sutlej, is just double the horizontal distance.

From Boekathoo to Kairath, the road measurement is 67 miles, but the direct is only 41, or an excess at the former between one third and a half.

(ee) We should not expect this to be the case in the better wooded and more fertile tracts; it is however very true. In the desolation of men and nature, we frequently experience obstacles to a direct communication, which tends to appear in a more savage condition.

(ii) Masareddy's distances upon the Punjab plains are all extreme, that to Lahore having been subsequently traversed by one in the most efficient aspect qualified to judge, see No. 229 of the Calcutta Journal for 26th November 1819. The allowance for the uncertainties of the route through a level country, being nearly the same ratio of error as that in the *Misavalia*, or one-sixth and one-fifth, instead of one-fifth and one-third, a deficiency of local experienced persons be supplied, by any power of ability in the highest scale of attainment. See the letter of the TARTAN of the STEFFEL, in the Calcutta Journal, for 9th September 1819.

Now this river is the Indus itself, which rising from the back of the Khyassan range rolls over the table land, washes and waters the plains of Leh, and the stream mentioned here as the Indus, appears to have no existence at all. (18)

(22) Near Iait Oala, Mr. Meerscroft's moonchi, traversed this belt and crossed no river: while no reports confirm its existence.

The reasons for differing from the information extracted from Hamilton on those two last heads, are equally respectable and conclusive, as those which have guided opinion on the position of Leh; but their consideration involves greater proximity than is proper or consistent with the motives which have induced the present observations: for they were begun after the moment of perusing the Journal, and under no view of an event like this; but they have lengthened out beyond expectation or intention, and there is only room for one other remark.

In the paragraph under the head *Ladak*, (or little Thibet) it is stated from native reports, that five days' journey north-east of Kashmir, an ascent commences, which is very great for three or four days, after which it is rather less on to *Ladak*.

The direction here, north-east, is evidently projected from Macartney's position of *Leh*, (pp) or rather from the lat. given 35° 35', which is the mean of the above and Major Rennel's, and is correct relatively to that position; but this being reduced to 33° 48', makes it almost due east, and exactly answers to the tract by which the natives of Nahn descended into Kashmir, and whose authority is much more creditable than any consulted within the reach of the Cabul embassy, although it is considerably contrarious to it.

Inversing their route from *Leh* to Kashmir for the sake of uniformity, the ascent from the valley terminates by cutting the crest of the Himalaya at an elevation great enough to favor the rest of perpetual snow. To follow them now in the line of their route, the informers say, that on the 15th day's journey from *Leh*, they crossed this range, which embays the valley on the east, and that the old snow lay deep; the descent from the Pass was about half a coss, very steep, but continued in degree to the heart of Kashmir, which is considerably more probable than the other accounts, which would assign very extravagant limits to the valley. (qq) That the ascent commences from the valley, and is progressive all the way to the Pass, is very clear; but this only occupies a journey of four days, as appears by the oral statement of our travellers.

That the rise of the ground is rather less on to *Ladak* after the three or four day's of great ascent, is to be suspected. It is difficult however to conceive the idea of a progressive inclination of the soil for 20 day's journey in such a country of crags, without arriving at an elevation exceeding the hoary summits of Himalaya, or that there are not corresponding depressions unless indeed we pursue the course of the Indus, which could never be implied by an observation of the tenor here given, or if we are thus ambiguously informed, a construction even to the very limits of cavillous controversy, if that was the humour of the critic, would be wholly defensible. (r)

It might appear a supererogant presumption, as it certainly would be even to insinuate, an imputation against the simple unassuming relation of a report, which can only be disproved by another, and perhaps not a better, merely from the no very creditable superiority of advantages, fortuitously accessible or unmeritedly possessed; but the attempt at correction of an inconsistent account, or at least a production of reasoning for holding a contrary opinion too, gathered from disinterested authorities, and maintained upon physical induction, is surely equitable, if not useful.

That there is no continued ascent from Kashmir to *Leh* of *Ladak*, is a theorem easily demonstrable in the common order of cause and effect, and that this is verified by present information, is equally obvious.

(pp) *Leh* by Macartney is 37-10.

(qq) The extent of the valley of Kashmir is said to be 76 miles by 60. See Foster and Rennel.

The travellers after leaving *Leh*, found the road rising and sinking in perpetual succession; three ridges occurred in the route, all of which were crossed by an ascent on one side, and a descent on the other, the last and greatest or embaying barrier of the valley of Kashmir was cut upon the line of constant congelation; the ascent from the *Ladak* side exceeding the corresponding descent towards Kashmir more than double, which is all that is required to obtain a satisfactory and final conclusion.

Your indefatigable anxiety for adding to and advancing our common stock of knowledge, and the pleasure and interest you take in recording the meritorious labours of individuals, which is eminently laudable and conspicuous towards the one now steering an unknown course, through a vast desert of alienate nature, in the promotion of god, makes me anticipate your acceptance of a more characteristic detail of Mr. Moorcroft's Tour hitherto, and the nature of the tracts before him, illustrated by a small Map, delineating Mr. M.'s former Tour to Central Asia, the present line of route and the most remarkable points, primitive debouchures of rivers, and political boundaries from Lake Mansour to *Leh* of *Ladak*, Kashmir and Punjab, Lahore West, the Tartaric valley of the Indus to the exit of the Ganges at the Hurdwar South. It is most satisfactory to know, that Mr. Moorcroft is equipped with apparatus for a geographical survey of the countries which may be traversed. The instruments of observation are described with a degree of fidelity purely decisive of their nature, and the possession of them by Mr. Moorcroft, is inferred from their cognizance by our travellers, in others of which there are all sorts, sizes, and descriptions at this place. The meridian altitude of the sun is said to be observed, and numerous barometrical heights taken, throughout the route (upon the road) but the most part of this, hither to *Ladak*, has been performed at a season particularly unfavorable for operations of any kind, or for the employment of the common instruments of observation, so that unless the positions and data of the stars are familiar to our Traveller, the sextant would be of no utility whatever till the autumnal equinox, at which time it appears, that Mr. Moorcroft was already within a few day's journey of *Leh*. The survey of the hither part of the country is however of very minor consideration, compared to the absolute geographical position of that capital, the mosque of Kashmir, or the uninhabited boundary of Yarkind. One of the barometers is reported to have reached *Leh*, (I trust unbroken,) should they fail in effect, which is an event too liable to occur in their transit through such a country, it is much to be hoped, that the method of ascertaining elevations by the boiling point of water, an operation at once simple, elegant, and efficient, will not be overlooked.

Considering then the hither to successful advance of the Tour, the persevering ardor and enthusiasm of our Traveller, his general qualifications and insinuating address towards the natives, among whom he is said to have experienced a most courteous reception, it is not too weighty a responsibility to raise public expectation to the possession of all that can be afforded from the result of a journey through a country wholly unexplored, and which promises a splendid accession to, and revision of our Indian geography, and a physical analysis of nature, unsubdued and majestic, as well as ultimate hopes of consummating the desirable acquisitions to British prosperity in India, which gave birth to the adventure.

Wishing Mr. Moorcroft all the prosperity that general and particular interest can inspire.

I remain, your's truly,

J. G. G.

Seodahoe, 27th January, 1821.

END OF VOL. I, FOR 1821.

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THE CALCUTTA JOURNAL.

N^o. III.

Political, Commercial, and Literary Gazette.

ASIATIC DEPARTMENT

[No. 98]

OF

THE CALCUTTA JOURNAL,

OR,

Political, Commercial, and Literary Gazette.

FOR,

MARCH.

Accompanied by Engravings—Price, 5 Rupees.

1821.

Printed at the Union Press, in Gartin's Buildings, near the Bankshall and the Exchange.

Rob Roy.

Answer from "Rob Roy's" Friend, a Letter from whom was the cause of a Treat to the Public, in the Journal of March 16.

How can I forget thee? Remembrance is mine
Of the Friendship expressed in thy Letters to me,
How can I forget thee? How learn to resign
The hope of more sweet flowing verses from thee?
My mirth is still with thee, thou musk-breathing Poet,
How can it, though willing, turn traitor and flee?
Since, still from the flow' that best can bestow it,
The honey is sought by the provident bee.
Then wherefore forget thee? when thou art the flower,
My mirth is the honey and I am the bee
And O! how could I seek to amuse a dull hour
So well as extracting the "Honey" from thee,
O! long may the sunshine of wit hover o'er thee
And long in the Journal thy verses abound.
Till time spread a mantle of praises before thee,
And India with "Rob Roy the Poet" resound.

N—, April 3, 1821.

ANON.

Domestic Occurrences.

MARRIAGE.

At Bangalore, on the 5th instant, by the Reverend Mr. Malkin, Lieutenant Kirby, of the 4th Regiment of Native Infantry, to Mrs. Arabella Holst, widow of the late Lieutenant Holst, of His Majesty's 59th Regiment.

BIRTHS.

On the 26th instant, Mrs. Sarah J. Well, of a Son.

At Madras, on the 8th instant, the Lady of D. Neale, Esq. of a Son.

DEATH.

At Puttyghar, on the 15th instant, of a sudden fit of illness, H. Cashore, Esq. leaving a disconsolate widow, five children, and a large circle of relatives and friends to bewail his irreparable loss.

Shipping Intelligence.

CALCUTTA ARRIVAL.

Date Names of Vessels Flags Commanders From Whence Left
Apr. 25 Isabella Robertson British G. O. Mitchell Chitt Dec. 20

MADRAS ARRIVAL.

Date Names of Vessels Flags Commanders From Whence Left
Apr. 12 Latchmy British T. Heston Port Louis Feb. 11

MADRAS DEPARTURE.

Date Names of Vessels Flags Commanders Destination
Apr. 13 Edward Stewart British W. Heston Manipatam

PASSENGERS

Per Isabella Robertson, from Chitt to Calcutta.—Mr. John Ferguson, Merchant, Lieutenant Henry Hartman, Hanoverian Army.

APRIL 27, 1821.

At Diamond Harbour.—San Domingos East, (P.)

Mangles, outward bound, remains.

Cornwallis, inward bound, remains.

Kedgess.—Merop, Four Brothers, (F.) and Genevieve, (brig)

proceeded down.

List of Shipping in the Madras Roads on the 14th of April.

Ship Shoe Horns, Captain John Brano.—Ship Triumph, Captain J. L. Garrick.—Ship Lady Kennaway, Captain Charles Beach.—Ship Helmer, Cap in James Wayland.—Brig Slanham, Captain Charles Penderbrey.—Brig Latchmy, Captain T. Bertouze.—Cutter Sinusichellam, Captain F. Gantier.

Commercial Report.

(From the Calcutta Exchange Price Current of Thursday last.)

Statement exhibiting the Imports and Exports of Shipping between Great Britain, Gibraltar and Malta, and Calcutta, from the year 1816 to 1820, both included.

IMPORTS.

Yr.	Free Traders and Country Ships from	Total F. Traders and country Ships.	Hon. Co's. Regular, Extra & Chd Ships	General Total.
1816	London 63 21419 Liverpool 5 2127 London 91 44924 Liverpool 18 7997 Hull 2 742 Greenock 4 1688 Whitby 1 468 Newcastle 2 720 London 51 41027 Liverpool 28 1761 Hull 3 1527 Bristol 1 454 Greenock 4 1688 Newcastle 3 1168 Gib & Malta 7 2272 London 49 21654 Liverpool 14 6386 Hull 2 720 Bristol 1 428 Greenock 3 1296 London 40 19928 Liverpool 18 6240 Bristol 1 428 Greenock 3 1212 Gib & Malta 5 2041	68 22486	12 2128	80 43066
1817	London 91 44924 Liverpool 18 7997 Hull 2 742 Greenock 4 1688 Whitby 1 468 Newcastle 2 720 London 51 41027 Liverpool 28 1761 Hull 3 1527 Bristol 1 454 Greenock 4 1688 Newcastle 3 1168 Gib & Malta 7 2272 London 49 21654 Liverpool 14 6386 Hull 2 720 Bristol 1 428 Greenock 3 1296 London 40 19928 Liverpool 18 6240 Bristol 1 428 Greenock 3 1212 Gib & Malta 5 2041	118 56546	12 11617	131 68163
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RATE OF FREIGHT TO LONDON.

Year.	Light Goods.				Dead Weight.			
1816	10	0	0	12	10	0	0	10
1817	10	0	0	10	10	0	0	0
1818	6	10	0	0	5	10	0	0
1819	8	0	0	0	5	0	0	0
1820	5	10	0	0	5	0	0	10

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